Welcome Back!

Holly Hermansen
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

Welcome Back!

Wow. It is hard to believe how fast the time flies. I know that we all say it when we meet up together again after a break, but it seems like time goes by faster and faster each year. I hope each of you had a relaxing and enjoyable time over the summer, providing you with a renewed sense of energy and excitement for the school year. It was a pleasure to see so many educators at Scholar Day at the Fair and hear about your summer adventures and activities.

I’m not sure how many share this sentiment, but I have talked to several educators in the last couple of weeks that share my feeling, this is going to be a good year. It feels like after years of crisis, uncertainty and change, we are finally beginning school with a little different feeling than in the last six or seven years. While there may be uncertain times ahead, for the time being, the economic crisis has improved. Under the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) our schools for the most part are receiving slight increases in funding. Although most or all of the schools in Nevada County are still in declining enrollment, the decline appears to be leveling off. We successfully completed the first year of the new Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), where districts engage stakeholders and make local decisions about allocating resources to their schools and students. We are in the process of fully implementing the new Common Core State Standards, and the reflections from the teachers who participated in the summer professional development opportunities offered by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools were overwhelmingly positive. In addition, many of our districts held local trainings to support teachers in the implementation of the new state standards. This will be the year that we settle into all the new changes, and I have been very excited at the sense of optimism that seems to be prevalent.

Over the summer I have been reading Learning From Lincoln, Leadership Practices for School Success, by Harvey Alvy and Pam Robbins and given to me by a dear friend. This exceptional book provides insightful guidance to principals, teachers, superintendents and other school leaders as they face the challenges in education today. The authors identified ten areas that help to explain why Lincoln was so effective, despite insurmountable odds. My favorite of the areas addressed is: “Building a Diverse and Competent Team to Successfully Address the Mission”. Lincoln strongly believed and practiced that if you got the right people together, the greater good of the mission would be accomplished. The authors of the book compared Lincoln engaging individuals with specifically refined skills to share a common and national focus, to school teams devoted to collaborating and working together to improve student achievement. This made me thoughtful about the work that is done in all our schools. And with that, I recognize and appreciate the contributions of all the members of each school team in reaching that common goal.

Thank you again for all the fantastic work you do for our students each day, and have a wonderful year!
NCSOS Common Core Coaching Team Services for Nevada County Educators
Kathleen Kiefer
Curriculum, Instruction, & Accountability Director

As promised in May, Common Core Coaching Team Services have begun. Perhaps you were one of approximately 100 Nevada County teachers that attended one or more of the Common Core workshops offered August 4-8. The workshops will prove to be an inspiring beginning as we transition fully into Common Core and all that it encompasses. In that regard, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office is proud to introduce your colleagues who comprise the curriculum and instruction coaching team for 2014 - 2015:

Director of Curriculum and Instruction:
Kathleen Kiefer

Math Coaches:
Grades K – 2: Susan Lima
Grades 3 – 5: Sarah Schwartz
Grades 6 – 8: Jim Richards
Grades 9 – 12: Michael Hughes

ELA Coaches:
Grades K – 2: Stacey Welch
Grades 3 – 5: Andrea Marks
Grades 6 – 8: Jill Massie
Grades 9 – 12: Steve Hansen

The NCSOS coaching team is excited to offer a range of support services for Nevada County teachers and instructional leaders. Following is a list of current workshops that are ready for presentation at school sites after school, during staff meetings, on professional development days, or to groups of teachers during their PLC/early release time. All of these can be tailored to meet the unique needs of each district.

- Identifying Complex Text (Grades 3-5, 6-8)
- Creating Text Dependent Questions (Grades 3-5, 6-8)
- Close Reading (Grades 3-5, 6-8)
- Teaching the Problem Solving Process (Grades 3-5, 6-8, 7-10)
- Using Math Games, Manipulatives, and Other Resources to Address the CCSS (Grades K-1, 2-3)
- Deconstructing an ELA Standard in Order to Create a Comprehensive CCSS Lesson/Unit (Grades K-12)
- Raising Literacy Levels with Guided Independent Reading (Grades 2-5)

The team is also working on creating model Common Core classrooms for teacher observation, TK collaboration, Common Core and special education discussions, cooperative learning workshops, Next Generation Science Standards support and collaboration, topic-driven open collaboration time, repeated follow-up meetings for each workshop, and bringing Visible Learning into the classroom. The coaches are even available to work one-on-one with teachers as needed.

To schedule services please contact Kathleen Kiefer at 478-6400 ext. 246 or kkiefer@nevco.k12.ca.us. We have been working hard and would be delighted if you took advantage of us.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings

BTSA

The Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment (BTSA) program provides first and second year teachers with rigorous but compassionate support and tools for assessment. The BTSA seminar schedule can be found on page 4 of The Nugget in the Quick Reference Calendar.

Newly hired teachers should consult with their districts to determine, based on their credentials, whether they should sign-up for BTSA. Additional information or questions can also be directed to Nevada County’s BTSA Coordinator Susan Clarabut at sclarabut@scoe.org. Nevada County is a member of the North Coast Beginning Teacher Program, which can be found at www.ncbtp.org.

Brain Gym
For Educators & Parents

Discover the ease and joy of whole brain learning. Brain Gym®, based on current brain research, is a series of simple movements that integrate parts of the brain for optimal learning and performing. It also offers practical and natural solutions to stress, as well as academic and behavioral challenges. This class will emphasize use in the classroom. Workshop takes place Saturday, Sept. 13, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Sierra Montessori Academy in Grass Valley. Cost includes the Brain Gym® teachers edition book and handouts. To register or for more information contact instructor Sheri Hoss, MEd at sheri.movement@gmail.com or 271-5514.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All...
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Field Trips

Music in the Mountains

These MIM Educational Programs are FREE to Nevada County Schools:
+ Peers Performing for Peers
+ Music Live
+ Classics 4 Kids
+ Take Five for Music (formerly the Brummitt-Taylor Classical Music Listening Program)

Education Director Mark Vance
265.6173 x202

Mud Hut @ ASiF Studios

A schedule of kids fall 2014 clay classes take place at ASiF Studios beginning in early September. Two classes, Fire Up the Fun and Clay for Homeschoolers, offer hand-building techniques while learning the basics of clay as an art form. Returning students pursue independent study forming their own creations. The Mud Hut also offers classroom workshops, instruction, and enrichment classes. To register or for more information visit www.asistudeios.com or contact teacher Denise Wey at 477-7842 or dewy@denisewey.com.

To Arms for Independency: The American Revolutionary War Comes to Nevada City!
The Delaware Regiment of the Brigade of the American Revolution will present Revolutionary War Days in Pioneer Park in Nevada City as an adjunct of the Constitution Day Parade weekend. This year Revolutionary War Days has been increased to include Friday, Sept. 12 from 1-5. Other event hours are Saturday from 10-5 and Sunday from 10-12. A full schedule of events and reenactment activities can be found at www.delawareregiment.org. This is an educational opportunity perfectly suited for students.

Opportunities for All

To Arms for Independency: Looking for an Enthusiastic Teacher for Living History
The Delaware Regiment of the Brigade of the American Revolution is looking for an enthusiastic teacher to discuss the possibility of future school programs to take place at Revolutionary War Days. If you might be that person, the one that loves living history, contact John Hess at jhess1776@innercite.com.

Tournament Schedule for School Year 2014-15
The tournament schedule for geography, spelling, writing, math, and speech has been approved. The schedule can be found on page 4 of The Nugget in the Quick Reference Calendar.

Local Authors, Illustrators, & Publisher
Dawn Publications is a Nevada County children’s book publisher that has distributed complimentary children’s books to your school’s library. Local authors will do author visits and book signings at your school. Books and author/illustrators include:
- On Kiki’s Reef by Carol L. Malnor, illustrated by Trina L. Hunner
- The Dandelion Seed’s Big Dream by Joseph Anthony, illustrated by Cris Arbo
- The Prairie That Nature Built by Marybeth Lorbiecki, illustrated by Cathy Morrison
- The Mouse and the Meadow written & illustrated by Chad Wallace
- The Swamp Where Gator Hides by Marianne Berkes, illustrated by Roberta Baird

CPR & First Aid Training
See the Quick Reference Calendar below for dates & times thru September 2014. CPR & First Aid Training is $30. Reservations are first come, first serve. Fees must be prepaid to reserve a spot in the class. For further information call Faith at 478-6400 x201 or register on-line at www.nevco.org/register.

Finding Funding
- NCSOS offers Educator Grant Program! Pursuant to a continuing goal to provide services and support to the students of Nevada County, the NCSOS office is pleased to share with you newly offered grant opportunities to assist in your district’s ongoing efforts to increase student achievement. Grants are available on an as needed basis as funds allow, with a $1000 maximum award. Letters of interest are due September 1, December 1, and/or March 1. There is no form ~ simply a letter of interest. To receive a copy of the RFP with required information, contact Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.
- Last minute notice from Nevada County Arts: the Leff-Davis Fund for Visual Artists offers grant opportunities to emerging professional and mid-career artists in Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, and Nevada Counties. Deadline to apply is August 22, 2014. If it is too late for this year, be prepared and put it on your calendar for next year. For questions contact Priscilla@sacregcf.org or Jeannie@sacregcf.org. Apply thru the Sacramento Regional Community Foundation at http://sacregcf.org who has awarded $100 million in grants over a 30 year period.

Quick Reference Calendar...
Follows on page 4
Quick Reference Calendar...

Other than the August edition, calendar events have been highlighted in previous editions of The Nugget and are listed in chronological order. In that regard, back issues of The Nugget, with additional information, can be found at www.nevco.org/news-events.

Upcoming CPR Class Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPR &amp; FIRST AID</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FULL</td>
<td>Thurs. 8/21</td>
<td>3 p.m. – 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPR &amp; FIRST AID</td>
<td>Thurs. 9/11</td>
<td>3 p.m. – 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPR &amp; FIRST AID</td>
<td>Tues. 9/30</td>
<td>5 p.m. – 9 p.m.</td>
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Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment

All seminars not online take place in the NCSOS Houser Room from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>GROUP</th>
<th>OTHER INFORMATION</th>
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<td>August 25</td>
<td>Coaches/Support Providers</td>
<td>1st &amp; 2nd year support providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Year 1 teachers</td>
<td>seminar</td>
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<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Year 2 teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
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<td>seminar</td>
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<td>Nov. 18</td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Education Specialists</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Year 1 &amp; 2 teachers</td>
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<td>Jan. 20</td>
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<td>Feb. 17</td>
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<td>February</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
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Tournament Schedule for School Year 2014-15

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<th>EVENT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Chicago Park School Gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>5th - 6th</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Miners Foundry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>7th - 8th</td>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>Miners Foundry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>7th - 8th</td>
<td>1/22</td>
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<td>1/27</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7th - 8th</td>
<td>1/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech Prelims</td>
<td>4th - 8th</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Calvary Bible Church</td>
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<td>Speech Finals</td>
<td>4th - 8th</td>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>Nevada Theatre</td>
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